

UC Berkeley Public Service Center

Founded by students in 1967, the UC Berkeley Public Service Center partners with the community, student leaders, and faculty to engage more than 5,000 students a year in volunteer opportunities, jobs, internships, and courses with a community-based learning component.

Mission and Values

The UC Berkeley Public Service Center connects people through shared learning and collaborative action for social justice. The Center is guided by five core values that shape our approach to public service at UC Berkeley.

- Experiential and Reflective Learning
- Equity & Social Justice
- Collaboration and Commitment
- Community Wisdom
- Student Agency

Current Work in Education

BUILD (Berkeley United in Literacy Development)

Through BUILD a team of UC Berkeley students work in partnership with a public elementary school to provide one-to-one reading mentoring to children who need support. Mentors meet with 3 student-scholars a day for 30-45 minute long sessions that include reading for fun and quick skills practice in either word work, fluency, or reading comprehension. BUILD mentors are either paid through the Work Study program or earn field study units.

CREATE

CREATE partners with East Bay afterschool programs in need of arts enrichment. Two students design and teach a weekly class in: visual arts, theater, dance, or creative writing.

Current Community Internship & Service Programs

Public Service Internships

The Public Service Internship programs matches hundreds of students with civic, non-profit, grassroots, governmental, and arts organizations. Students have researched legislative issues, developed community projects, handled constituent casework, implemented social media, attended council meetings, and more. Public Service Internships include the following programs:

East Bay Community Builders: Students are placed with grassroots organizations focused on community issues such as education, housing, or transportation.

Cal in Local Government: Students work on public policy projects with a local government or advocacy organization.

Berkeley Arts Connect: Students are matched with arts organization where they work on administrative, marketing, or media projects.

Direct Service: Students work with a community organization providing direct services.

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Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

Trained student volunteers provide free tax filing services to low-to-moderate-income individuals and families in partnership with a community organization or credit union.

Opportunities to Seed Service in Richmond

The Public Service Center provides grant support and scholarships to student leaders and groups providing service to local communities. It could be possible to promote service in Richmond through the following PSC programs:

The Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders Scholarship Program

Provides need-based scholarships to undergraduate student leaders who have demonstrated a significant commitment to off-campus service. Current Haas Scholars working in Richmond are:

Managing *L.I.F.E* (Learning and Inspiring through Financial Education) Courses, a program that incorporates practical financial literacy into economics classes at Richmond High School, the student's alma mater, and hosts a series of weekly financial literacy workshops for parents.

Launching *Spread the Word*, a student-run organization that leads workshops and peer-to-peer mentoring at Richmond High School to mitigate the chasm between students of color and access to higher education.

The Student Initiated Community Projects Program

Supports 25-30 student service groups with grant funding (in partnership with the ASUC), staff advising, and access to Public Service Center trainings and workshops. Current supported student groups working in Richmond include:

Richmond ESC: A student group matching students with volunteer opportunities in partnership with Richmond Volunteers

Let's Rise a one-to-one mentorship program for underrepresented Asian/Pacific Islander youth at Helms Middle School in Richmond.

Possible Transferrable Student Group Services:

Teaching SAT Test Prep in High Schools

Advising Community College Students Transferring to 4-Year Colleges

Leading Hands-on Science or Engineering Workshops